

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the USPTO Office Action of October 31, 2006. Reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1 and 3-6 remain in the application and new claims 24-70 are added after this amendment is entered.

I. THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 7-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly not producing any tangible result in the real world and allegedly not being directed to a practical application of a judicial exception. These claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1 and 3-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Pat. No. 6,853,994 to Gupta in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,643,639 to Biebesheimer et al. Claims 7-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 2 is identified as a dependent claim containing subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. THE ART REJECTIONS

A. Claims 1 and 3-6 Patentably Distinguish Over the Combination of Gupta and Biebesheimer.

As amended, independent claim 1 now incorporates the limitations of original dependent claim 2 which was identified as containing allowable subject matter. Amended claim 1 is the same as claim 2 would be if rewritten in independent form. Based at least on the foregoing, claim 1 and claims dependent thereon (i.e., claims 3-6) patentably distinguish over the combination of Gupta and Biebesheimer. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 3-6 are currently in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

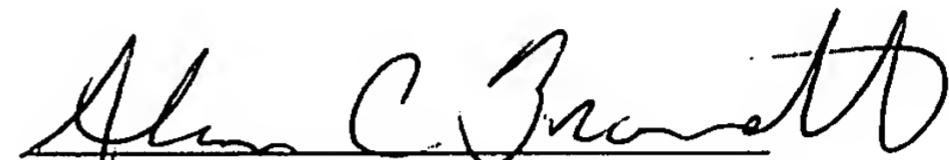
Based on the foregoing remarks, the applicants believe that all claims in this application (i.e., claims 1, 3-6, and 24-70) are now in condition for allowance and an indication to that effect

Amendment A
Serial No. 10/628,884

is earnestly solicited. Furthermore, if the USPTO believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this application, the USPTO should feel free to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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